

FILED
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

9:47 am, Sep 02, 2021

**U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
LONG ISLAND OFFICE**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CHRISTINE LAVONNE LAZARUS,

Defendant.

Case No. 19-CR-00582 (DRH)

Long Island Federal
Courthouse
814 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, NY 11222

July 29, 2021

TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR PLEADING
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ARLENE R. LINDSAY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff:

ALEXANDER MINDLIN, ESQ.
IAN C. RICHARDSON, ESQ.
KAYLA C. BENSING, ESQ.
U.S. Attorney's Office
Eastern District of NY
271 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

For the Defendant:

JOEL MARK STEIN, ESQ.
Law Offices of Joel M. Stein
30 Wall Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording, transcript produced by transcription service.

Fiore Reporting and Transcription Service, Inc.
4 Research Drive, Suite 402
Shelton, Connecticut 06484 (203)929-9992

1 (Proceedings commenced)

2 THE COURT: Good morning, it's Judge Lindsay.

3 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning.

4 MR. STEIN: Good morning, Your Honor.

5 MR. MINDLIN: Good morning, Judge.

6 THE COURT: All right. Can we have appearances,
7 please, for the record?

8 MR. MINDLIN: Judge, for the government, Assistant
9 U.S. Attorney Alex Mindlin.

10 MR. STEIN: Good morning, Your Honor. For Ms.
11 Lazarus, Joel Stein.

12 THE COURT: And now can we have the defendant sworn
13 in?

14 THE CLERK: Yes.

15 (The defendant is sworn.)

16 THE CLERK: Yes. Could you please state your name
17 for our record?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. It's Christine Lavonne
19 Lazarus.

20 THE CLERK: Thank you.

21 THE DEFENDANT: You're welcome.

22 THE COURT: All right. So I'm given to understand,
23 Mr. Stein, that your client wishes to change her plea from
24 not guilty to guilty on Counts 1 and 2 of the indictment?

25 MR. STEIN: Correct.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Let me just first review the
2 administrative order that was just extended by our chief
3 judge with respect to proceedings, the findings of -- after
4 consultation with our epidemiologist who has been retained by
5 the court to guide us through the COVID situation, the
6 guidance has been to continue to avoid in-person proceedings
7 at least for another month to the end of August.

8 And the concern arises in part now from the Delta
9 variant, and several other variants that have been detected.
10 So out of concern for everybody's well being, we're in charge
11 to do these proceedings by video and/or phone.

12 So have you reviewed that with your client and does
13 she consent to proceeding by video?

14 MR. STEIN: Yes and yes.

15 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So let's go forward
16 with the pleas. Ms. Lazarus, you've been sworn in.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

18 THE COURT: I want to go over -- when you -- before
19 you showed up here today, you went over a what we call an
20 allocution form, which really is a series of questions. Had
21 your --

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

23 THE COURT: -- attorney probably went over with
24 you. Do you remember that?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

1 THE COURT: I'm going to ask you those same
2 questions, but now you're going to be answering them under
3 oath, so the answers you give are subject to the penalties of
4 perjury if you misrepresent yourself. Okay. So let's go
5 through them.

6 THE DEFENDANT: (Indiscernible.)

7 THE COURT: All right. So can you tell me how old
8 you are? No lying.

9 THE DEFENDANT: I'm 47.

10 THE COURT: Okay. I'm just teasing. Sorry.

11 THE DEFENDANT: I'm 47. 27 is the new 47.

12 THE COURT: Okay. I'll take that. Are you a
13 citizen of the United States?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: All right. And you've talked to Mr.
16 Stein about your going forward with this plea, and you
17 understand what we're doing, correct?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

19 THE COURT: Now, how far did you get in school?

20 THE DEFENDANT: I have a bachelor's of science
21 degree.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Would you actually -- so you did
23 get your diploma. All right.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Did you go --

1 THE DEFENDANT: Four years.

2 THE COURT: -- beyond that?

3 THE DEFENDANT: No, I didn't. I've taken on and
4 off just, you know, continued learning classes on and off,
5 just, you know, something here and there.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 THE DEFENDANT: (Indiscernible) class, but yes.

8 THE COURT: All right. So have you recently been
9 under the care of physician or psychiatrist?

10 THE DEFENDANT: No, I have not.

11 THE COURT: In the last 24 hours, have you taken
12 any narcotic drugs, medicine or pills, or drunk any alcohol?

13 THE DEFENDANT: No, I have not.

14 THE COURT: Have you ever been hospitalized for a
15 narcotic --

16 MR. STEIN: Excuse me.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MR. STEIN: Excuse me. Lavonne, just you may want
19 to mention what you told me you had taken this morning.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Oh, I didn't take it. I was going
21 to take some (indiscernible), but I didn't take any.

22 MR. STEIN: Okay.

23 THE COURT: Oh, okay. So you took nothing. Okay.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: All right. So --

1 THE DEFENDANT: I was going to, but I didn't. I
2 didn't take it.

3 THE COURT: All right. Have you been hospitalized
4 for a narcotics addiction?

5 THE DEFENDANT: I have a long time ago. Yes.

6 THE COURT: All right. Just approximately how long
7 ago?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Oh, I'd say give or take like 20
9 years. It's been a long time.

10 THE COURT: And really the questions are really
11 designed to make sure that your mind is clear today. Is your
12 mind clear?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is, ma'am. It is.

14 THE COURT: All right. And you understand what's
15 going on, right?

16 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Stein, have you discussed this
18 matter with your client?

19 MR. STEIN: Yes.

20 THE COURT: And are you satisfied she understands
21 the rights she'd be giving up by answering the plea of
22 guilty?

23 MR. STEIN: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Do you have any doubts as to her
25 competency to plead at this time?

1 MR. STEIN: No.

2 THE COURT: Now, Ms. Lazarus, I'm going to review
3 with you what would happen if you persisted in your plea of
4 not guilty. Because if you -- because you have a right to
5 continue your plea of not guilty.

6 Do you understand that?

7 THE DEFENDANT: I do, yes.

8 THE COURT: If you were to continue your plea of
9 not guilty, under the Constitution and laws of the United
10 States, you would be entitled to a speedy and public trial
11 with the assistance of your attorney to help you with every
12 stage of the proceeding and to prepare your defense.

13 Do you understand that part?

14 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

15 THE COURT: Do you also understand that if you got
16 to the point where you couldn't afford a lawyer, the Court
17 would appoint an attorney for you, and that person would be
18 there to defend you until your case was fully completed?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

20 THE COURT: At a trial, you'd be presumed to be
21 innocent and the government would have to overcome that
22 presumption by proving your guilt by introducing competence
23 evidence and establishing your guilt beyond a reasonable
24 doubt. And if they failed to do that, the jury would have a
25 duty to find you not guilty.

1 Do you understand that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

3 THE COURT: And the points I'm trying to make is
4 you have no burden -- you're presumed to be innocent, so you
5 have no burden to prove anything at a trial. You could if
6 you wanted to, but you have no burden to do that under
7 (indiscernible).

8 THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

9 THE COURT: And in a trial, the witnesses that the
10 government has would come to court and would testify in your
11 presence. Your attorney would have the right to cross-
12 examine those witnesses. He could call witnesses on your
13 behalf if you wanted to. That you could compel witnesses to
14 appear by subpoena. We could object to evidence that the
15 government offers against you and he could offer evidence on
16 your behalf if you wanted to do that as well. That's how a
17 trial works proceeds.

18 Do you understand that?

19 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

20 THE COURT: And if there were a trial, you'd have
21 the right to testify if you wanted to, but you couldn't be
22 forced to testify, because you have the right not to
23 incriminate yourself, and the judge -- the trial judge would
24 tell the jury that if you decided not to testify, they
25 couldn't hold that against you in making their decision.

1 Do you understand?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

3 THE COURT: But if you go forward with your plea of
4 guilty and the Court accepts your plea of guilt, you'll be
5 giving up your constitutional rights to trial and these other
6 rights I've talked to you about.

7 There would be no further trial of any kind. No
8 right to attack the question of whether or not you're guilty,
9 because the judgment of guilt would be entered by the Court
10 and you can't walk back from that, and going back after that
11 plea is entered.

12 Do you understand?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

14 THE COURT: You could, however, appeal -- now, you
15 can't appeal the question of whether or not you're guilty if
16 you decide to go forward with your plea of guilty.

17 You could, however, appeal the sentence of the
18 Court and it's my understanding, placed on your agreement
19 with the government, that you have a limited right to appeal
20 the sentence to the Court and that would be limited to a term
21 of imprisonment of 210 months or less.

22 So just to be clear, if the Court sentences you to
23 210 months or less, you wouldn't even have the right to
24 appeal the sentence of the Court.

25 Do you understand that?

1 THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

2 THE COURT: Now, if you plead guilty, I'm going to
3 ask you questions about what you did in order to satisfy
4 myself that you are, in fact, pleading guilty to a crime, and
5 one which you committed, so in answering those questions,
6 you'd be giving up your right not to incriminate yourself.

7 Do you understand that part as well?

8 THE DEFENDANT: I do. I understand.

9 THE COURT: Okay. So you're willing to give up all
10 the rights to the trial and the other rights I've just
11 described to you and go forward with your plea of guilty?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Correct.

13 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Mindlin, I -- just to
14 summarize what the waiver on the sentence is, could you just
15 summarize what your plea agreement is with the -- with
16 defendant?

17 MR. MINDLIN: Yes, Judge. And if I -- if I may
18 briefly before we go on to that part of the proceeding. I
19 may have missed it, but if we could just confirm with the
20 defendant that she consents to the referral to Your Honor for
21 the plea, and also that she -- I just would like her to be
22 made aware that she could be prosecuted for perjury today or
23 false statements as a result of her oath and -- and she also
24 will need to confirm the nature of the charges in question,
25 but perhaps Your Honor can do that later. The two things

1 that I wanted to just --

2 THE COURT: (Indiscernible.)

3 MR. MINDLIN: -- discuss were the referral --

4 sorry.

5 THE COURT: I covered the perjury. I didn't cover
6 your referral, so thank you for that reminder.

7 MR. MINDLIN: Of course.

8 THE COURT: With respect to the referral, Ms.
9 Lazarus, what the prosecutor is pointing out is that I'm not
10 the judge who is going to sentence you and this is the judge
11 who -- and who has been assigned district judge? Hurley?

12 MR. STEIN: Judge Hurley.

13 THE COURT: So Judge Hurley is the assigned
14 district judge who will decide to what, if any, punishment is
15 appropriate. So you have an absolute right to have Judge
16 Hurley take this plea. In other words, to go through these
17 questions with you.

18 But your attorney indicated that you would consent
19 to my asking you these questions, you do this on behalf of
20 Judge Hurley; is that right?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. That's correct.

22 THE COURT: Okay. But I -- it's important that
23 you, now, you could have asked for him and insisted that he
24 do it.

25 Do you understand?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. Oh, yeah, I understand. No
2 problem.

3 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And with respect to
4 the perjury, I think I told you at the outset that the --
5 having been sworn in that you -- your answers if not truthful
6 would be subject to prosecution of perjury?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Understand.

8 THE COURT: Do you understand? Yes.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

10 THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Mindlin, do you
11 want to summarize the agreement?

12 MR. MINDLIN: Yes, Judge. Briefly on the -- to
13 proceed to the plea agreement, the defendant would plead to
14 Counts 1 and 2 of the indictment in this case, both of which
15 charge conspiracy to commit wire -- wire mail fraud in
16 violation of 18 United States Code, Section 1349. As Your
17 Honor pointed out, the plea agreement contains an appellate
18 waiver with respect to any sentence at or below 210 months.

19 THE COURT: All right. So with respect to the two
20 counts you've agreed to plead guilty to, Count 1, which is a
21 conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, and Count 2, a
22 conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, I just want to make
23 sure that you understand, Ms. Lazarus, what the government --
24 I told you the government would have to prove their case
25 against you beyond a reasonable doubt. So as to each of

1 those counts, the elements are really the same. That is, the
2 State would have to prove the (indiscernible).

3 They would have to prove that you engaged in
4 (indiscernible) or artificially defraud or to exchange money,
5 you and others, by the way. It's not -- that's the
6 conspiracy count, is you together with others.

7 The dates in that scheme to defraud or obtain money
8 under properties of materially false and fraudulent pretenses
9 or representations as alleged in the indictment. And that
10 you knowingly and willfully participated in that scheme to
11 artificially defraud, with knowledge of its fraudulent nature
12 on the specific intent to defraud.

13 And that in executing the scheme, you used or
14 caused the use of -- you or -- and/or others with your
15 knowledge used the Internet and used the Interstate or
16 international wires, including the post office at times
17 (indiscernible) to implement the scheme and used it in
18 furtherance to defraud -- the conspiracy to defraud. Do you
19 understand those are the elements the government would have
20 to show beyond a reasonable doubt?

21 THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

22 THE COURT: Now, so have you discussed Counts 1 and
23 2 with your attorney, the counts that you want to plead
24 guilty to?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have.

1 THE COURT: And do you understand those charges,
2 correct?

3 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

4 THE COURT: I want to talk to you about what the
5 penalties are for Counts 1 and 2. They're laid out in your
6 agreement with the government.

7 Count 1, which is the conspiracy to commit wire
8 fraud, carries with it a maximum term of imprisonment of 20
9 years and a minimum term of zero -- of imprisonment is zero.
10 And a maximum supervised release term of three years, which
11 would follow any term of imprisonment.

12 With respect to a fine, is to be the greater of
13 \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or twice the gross loss.
14 There is restitution, which is mandatory (indiscernible) and
15 would be determined by Judge Hurley at a later time. There
16 is a mandatory \$100 special assessment and then there is a
17 criminal forfeiture provisions, which have been set forth and
18 discussed in your plea agreement with the government.

19 THE DEFENDANT: All right.

20 THE COURT: With respect to Count 2, it is
21 essentially the same level of punishment. Maximum of
22 imprisonment is 20. The minimum is zero. The maximum
23 supervised release is three years to follow any term of
24 imprisonment. The fine is the same, meaning not that -- when
25 I say the same, each count will be viewed separately by the

1 Court and evaluated as to how it's -- how the sentence will
2 occur.

3 The judge has a lot of discretion in terms of how
4 to impose sentence. How there are sentencing guidelines that
5 will guide the Court in terms of what it considers an
6 (indiscernible) and appropriate punishment in your case. But
7 notwithstanding the guidelines, Judge Hurley could say, I'm
8 going to follow them, or if he feels that there are
9 aggravating circumstances here, he can go over the guidelines
10 or he could go under the guidelines if he finds some reason
11 to do that. Do you understand that?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I do. I understand.

13 THE COURT: All right. So let me just finish with
14 Count 2. The maximum fine is the greater of \$250,000 or
15 twice the gross gain or loss, and restitution in this count
16 as well mandatory and the full amount of each victim's
17 losses, which is to be determined by the Court. That applies
18 to Count 1 as well.

19 There's a mandatory \$100 special assessment and
20 there's also the criminal forfeiture, which is, I pointed
21 out, was discussed in the plea agreement in pages 16 -- or
22 paragraph 16 and 15 of your agreement with the government.

23 So you're familiar with these penalties --
24 potential penalties?

25 Do you understand?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am. Yes.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. So I talked to
3 you about the sentencing guidelines. So have you discussed
4 those guidelines with your attorney and you've kind of have
5 at least a minimal understanding, basic understanding of what
6 they are?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I -- yes, I do.

8 THE COURT: Okay. So, I mean, I -- they are --
9 they are kind of comprehensive as they (indiscernible)
10 provided to the Court, and will review the guidelines and
11 evaluates everything about you, your history, your -- the
12 nature of the crimes, all of that, and what any criminal
13 history you may have as he will assess what is an appropriate
14 sentence in your case.

15 And some of the factors he's going to take into
16 account beyond the guidelines are listed in Title 18, United
17 States Code 3553, subsection (a). And what -- I'm going to
18 read those to you. I'm sure your lawyer read this to you,
19 but I have to do it myself.

20 The Court will impose a sentence sufficient, but
21 not greater than necessary to reflect the seriousness of the
22 offense, to promote respect for the law, to provide just
23 punishment for the offense, to afford deterrence as to other
24 criminal conduct, to protect the public from further crimes
25 by you, to provide you with educational or vocational

1 training, medial care, or other correctional treatment in the
2 most effective manner. And then, of course, the Court would
3 also consider your cooperation if the government ever wishes
4 to notify (indiscernible).

5 So has your attorney gone over all of these factors
6 with you?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, he has.

8 THE COURT: Okay. So bottom line, do you realize
9 if the sentence turns out to be more severe than you
10 expected, you will be bound by your guilty plea and you
11 cannot appeal?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. Yes, I do.

13 THE COURT: And, now, we've talked a lot, I did
14 most of the talking, but do you have any questions about any
15 (indiscernible)?

16 THE DEFENDANT: No. Not at this time.

17 THE COURT: So are you ready to go forward with
18 your changing of your plea to a guilty plea?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Stein, do you know of any legal
21 reason why the defendant should not be permitted to do that?

22 MR. STEIN: No.

23 THE COURT: Ms. Lazarus, are you satisfied with
24 your lawyer to this point?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: Do you think he's doing a good job for
2 you?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: All right. So with respect to Count 1
5 and Count 2 of the indictment, I'm going to just tell you --
6 make sure you (indiscernible) in mind before I ask you how
7 you plea.

8 With respect to Count 1, which charges a conspiracy
9 to commit mail and wire fraud, also called a country of
10 origin scheme, did you -- on or -- with respect to that
11 count, which charges that on or about between August 1st,
12 2006 and November 7th, 2019, those being approximate dates,
13 within the Eastern District of New York, did you, together
14 with others, knowingly and intentionally conspire to devise a
15 scheme and artifice to defraud, one or more persons,
16 including U.S. government agencies, contractors, and private-
17 sector customers, in order to obtain money and property from
18 them by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses,
19 representations and promises, by falsely stating that
20 merchandise was made in the United States and falsely stating
21 merchandise was made by Aventura Technologies, and for the
22 purpose of executing the scheme, merchandise was placed in a
23 post office and authorized depository of mail and wire fraud,
24 or wire services used to transmit communications in
25 furtherance of this scheme to commit fraud.

1 With respect to Count 1, how do you plead to that
2 count, which charges you what I've described?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

4 THE COURT: Moving on to Count 2, which charges --
5 by the way is called the conspiracy to commit mail and wire
6 fraud with respect to a woman-owned small business claim.
7 The charges that in or about and between August 1st, 2006 and
8 November 7th, 2019, those being approximate dates, you, with
9 others, within the Eastern District of New York and
10 elsewhere, knowingly and intentionally conspired to devise a
11 scheme to defraud one or more persons, including U.S.
12 government agencies, and to obtain money and property from
13 them by means of false or fraudulent -- materially false or
14 fraudulent pretenses or representations, namely that these
15 false representations that Aventura Technologies, a woman-
16 owned business, and for the purposes of executing such scheme
17 and artifice, matters, materials were placed in the post
18 office to be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, and
19 private commercial carriers were also used, and there were
20 shipments of merchandise and transmission of wire
21 communications in furtherance of the scheme to defraud, and
22 in further -- which -- to which country of origin, which --
23 which occurred in the country of origin, on their product and
24 which (indiscernible) alleged woman-owned small business
25 scheme. All of those misstatements were made in furtherance

1 of that scheme to defraud the government and other entities.

2 Do you understand that count?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

4 THE COURT: And with respect to that count, how do
5 you plead?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

7 THE COURT: Now, are you entering this plea of
8 guilty voluntarily and of your own freewill?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you or forced you
11 in any way to plead guilty?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No.

13 THE COURT: Other than the agreement of the
14 government, which we've discussed on the record, has anyone
15 else made any promises to you that would have caused you to
16 plead guilty?

17 THE DEFENDANT: No.

18 THE COURT: Has anyone promised you anything with
19 respect to how -- what your sentence will be?

20 THE DEFENDANT: No.

21 THE COURT: So can you tell me in your own words,
22 and you can start with Count 1 or Count 2, however you want
23 to proceed, but I need you to tell me in your own words what
24 it is you did.

25 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. In response to question 51

1 and Counts 1 and 2, I, Lavonne Lazarus, with much regret,
2 committed fraud by soliciting business as a director of
3 business development, Aventura Technologies. This includes
4 developing business and submitting contracts on the company's
5 behalf stating that Aventura was a woman-owned small business
6 and that the products were made in the US, which I knew to be
7 false.

8 With knowledge of Aventura's fraudulent conduct, I
9 promoted Aventura's Technologies under the direction and
10 guidance of Jack Cabasso, not always through the federal
11 government, but through many other businesses globally, which
12 was wrong, and I'm very sorry.

13 THE COURT: Did you use the mail and, you know,
14 telephone and wire communications, Internet, email and the
15 likes?

16 THE DEFENDANT: I did, yes.

17 THE COURT: And with respect to where this
18 happened, where was this? Where were you located?

19 THE DEFENDANT: The company was -- had moved a few
20 times, but the corporate headquarters at the very end was in
21 Commack, but their base -- but we also had company phones,
22 so, I mean, we -- whenever you traveled, it's pretty much
23 wherever globally were -- you were. We corresponded with
24 clients.

25 THE COURT: So some, if not much of this conduct,

1 occurred in Suffolk County?

2 THE DEFENDANT: I would say yes. Yes. At the
3 headquarters, yes.

4 THE COURT: Okay. I think that's sufficient. Mr.
5 Mindlin, do you want to add anything to that?

6 MR. MINDLIN: No, Your Honor. That's sufficient
7 from the government's point of view.

8 THE COURT: All right. So why don't you, Mr.
9 Mindlin, outline the government's proof here. How were you
10 going to prove the case here?

11 MR. MINDLIN: Yes, Your Honor. If the government
12 were to put to its burden at trial, the government would
13 introduce emails, bid communications with the government,
14 shipping records of products imported by Aventura, the
15 results of covert interceptions of these products, and
16 notably recorded telephone conversations between this
17 defendant and undercover government agents in which she
18 represented, with knowing falsity that those products had
19 been made in the United States, learned that they were made
20 in China, and as well as other conversations, including chats
21 between this said defendant and others at Aventura's offices
22 similarly acknowledging her knowledge that those products
23 were (indiscernible) American made.

24 That's what some of the evidence the government
25 would introduce at trial.

1 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Then, based on the
2 information that has been given to me, I find that the
3 defendant is acting voluntarily. I find that you fully
4 understand the (indiscernible) as well as the consequences of
5 your plea of guilty, and I certainly find there is factual
6 basis for this case.

7 And, therefore, accept your plea of guilty of
8 Counts 1 and 2 of the indictment and I will recommend that
9 Judge Hurley do the same.

10 I think that takes care of it. Rob, what -- do we
11 have any dates from Judge Hurley?

12 THE CLERK: We do not, Judge.

13 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So what about bail
14 conditions? Is that -- is the government going to submit an
15 application or am I continuing the bail as it is?

16 MR. MINDLIN: No, Your Honor. The government
17 consents to continuing the defendant on release.

18 THE COURT: All right. So same bail conditions.
19 If there is nothing else, then, I just wish you good luck,
20 Ms. Lazarus.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you very much.

22 THE COURT: Anything else?

23 MR. MINDLIN: Not from the government, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Have a good day.

25 MR. STEIN: Not from me, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Have a good day.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

3 MR. STEIN: You, too.

4 THE DEFENDANT: Bye-bye.

5 (Proceedings concluded.)

6

7 I, CHRISTINE FIORE, Certified Electronic Court Reporter
8 and Transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct
9 transcript from the official electronic sound recording of
10 the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

11

12

Christine Fiore

13

14

September 1, 2021

15

Christine Fiore, CERT

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24